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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Original) A method of delivering a multi-media message to a recipient, the multi-media message being created by a sender for delivery by an animated entity, the method comprising:

     recording an audio message from the sender;

     receiving a choice of one of a plurality of animated entities to deliver the message;

     conforming the audio message to movements associated with the animated entity to create a multi-media message; and

     delivering the multi-media message to the recipient with the animated entity speaking the recorded audio message from the sender.

2.   (Original) The method of delivering a multi-media message to a recipient of claim 1, further comprising:

     after recording the audio message from the sender, converting the audio message to a text message and presenting a text version of the audio message to the sender; and

     delivering the multi-media message to the recipient upon approval of the text message from the sender.

3.   (Original) The method of delivering a multi-media message to a recipient of claim 1, wherein the multi-media message is sent as an e-mail to the recipient.

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4.　　　(Original) The method of delivering a multi-media message to a recipient of claim 1,

wherein the multi-media message is sent as an instant message to the recipient.

5.　　　(Original) The method of delivering a multi-media message to a recipient of claim 1,

wherein the multi-media message is sent over the Internet to the recipient

6.　　　(Original) The method of delivering a multi-media message to a recipient of claim 1,

wherein the multi-media message is sent to the recipient via a wireless network.

7.　　　(Original) A method of sending a multi-media message from a sender to a recipient

using an animated entity, the sender choosing the animated entity from a plurality of

animated entities, the method comprising:

　　　recording a sender audio message;

　　　associating the sender audio message with the animated entity to create the multi-

media message; and

　　　processing the multi-media message for the recipient such that the animated entity

speaks the sender audio message.

8.　　　(Original) The method of sending a multi-media message of claim 7, wherein

associating the sender audio message with the animated entity further comprises:

　　　using an automatic speech recognition system to convert the audio message to a text

message;

　　　presenting the text message to the sender; and

　　　after receiving approval from the sender for the text message, using the text message

to coordinate mouth movements for the animated entity.

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9.   (Original) The method of sending a multi-media message of claim 7, wherein the

multi-media message is sent over the Internet.

10.   (Original) The method of sending a multi-media message of claim 7, wherein the

multi-media message is sent in an instant message.

11.   (Original) The method of sending a multimedia message of claim 7, wherein the

multi-media message is sent over a wireless network.

12.   (Original) A method of delivering a multi-media message to a recipient, the multi-

media message being created by a sender for delivery by an animated entity, the method

comprising:

        receiving a text message from the sender;

        recording a sender audio message corresponding to the text message;

        receiving a choice of one of a plurality of animated entities to deliver the message;

        conforming the sender audio message to movements associated with the animated

entity to create a multi-media message; and

        delivering the multi-media message to the recipient with the animated entity speaking

the recorded audio message from the sender.

13.   (Original) The method of delivering a multi-media message to a recipient of claim

12, further comprising:

        delivering the multi-media message to the recipient upon approval of the sender audio

message by the sender.

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14.   (Original) The method of delivering a multi-media message to a recipient of claim

12, further comprising:

recording the sender audio message corresponding to the text message after the sender

makes a request to input an audible version of the text message.

15.   (Original) A method of sending a multi-media message from a sender to a recipient

using an animated entity, the sender choosing the animated entity from a plurality of

animated entities, the method comprising:

receiving a text message from the sender;

recording a sender audio message corresponding to the text message;

associating the sender audio message with the animated entity to create the multi-

media message; and

processing the multi-media message for the recipient such that the animated entity

speaks the sender audio message.

16.   (Original) A method of sending a multi-media message from a sender to a recipient

using an animated entity, the sender choosing the animated entity from a plurality of

animated entities, the method comprising:

receiving a text message from the sender;

recording a sender audio message corresponding to the text message;

conforming the audio message to movements associated with the animated entity to

create a multi-media message; and

delivering the multi-media message to the recipient, wherein the animated entity uses

a synthesized voice having characteristics associated with the recorded sender audio message.

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17.   (Original) The method of sending a multi-media message from a sender to a recipient

using an animated entity of claim 16, wherein the synthesized voice includes an accent of the

sender voice.

18.   (Currently Amended) A method of providing a synthesized voice with sender voice

characteristics, the method comprising:

     receiving an audio recording, associated with a message, from [[the]] a sender;

     parameterizing the audio recording into audio parameters; and

     using the audio parameters, synthesizing a voice for delivery of the message that is

not the sender's voice but includes at least one sender voice characteristic.

19.   (Original) The method of providing a synthesized voice with sender voice

characteristics of claim 18, wherein the at least one sender voice characteristic is one of an

accent, voice inflection, pitch, rhythm, or dialect.

20.   (Original) The method of providing a synthesized voice with sender voice

characteristics of claim 18, further comprising, before receiving the audio recording,

receiving a text version of a message associated with the audio recording.

21.   (Original) The method of providing a synthesized voice with sender voice

characteristics of claim 18, further comprising, after receiving the audio recording, using an

automatic speech recognizer and presenting a text version of the audio recording to the sender

for approval before parameterizing the audio recording.

22.   (Original) The method of providing a synthesized voice with sender voice

characteristics of claim 18, wherein parameterizing the audio recording into audio parameters

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further comprises using an alignment program for segmenting the audio recording into

phonemes and labeling the audio recording with the phonemes, duration, pitch, stress and

other parameters.

23.   (Currently Amended) A method of synthesizing a non-sender voice with sender voice

characteristics, the method comprising:

        receiving a text message from ~~the~~ a sender;

        receiving an audio recording from the sender associated with the text message;

        parameterizing the audio recording into audio parameters using segmentation; and

        using the audio parameters, synthesizing the non-sender voice to have sender voice

characteristics.

24.   (Currently Amended) The method of ~~synthesizing a non-sender voice with sender~~

~~voice characteristics~~ of claim 23, wherein the sender voice characteristics comprise at least

one of accent, voice inflection, pitch, rhythm, or dialect.

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